THE WORLD.

NUMBER CXXVII.

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To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *June* the 5th, 1755.

Quis novus hic noſtris ſucceſſit ſedibus hoſpes?
Quem ſeſe ore ferens?——— VIRGIL.

ALTHOUGH I profeſs myſelf a zealous advocate for modern faſhion, and have countenanced ſome of it's boldeſt innovations, yet I cannot but recall my approbation, when I ſee it making ſome very irregular and unjuſtifiable ſallies, in oppoſition to true policy and reaſons of ſtate. In teſtimony of the perfect quietiſm I have hitherto obſerved in this reſpect, I defy any one to convict me of having uttered one ſyllable in praiſe of the good roaſt beef of old England, ſince the conſpiracy ſet on foot by the Creolian epicures totally to baniſh it our iſland. On the other hand, it is well known I have been lately preſent at a turtle feaſt in perſon, and have

at this very hour ſeveral more engagements upon my hands. I have acquieſced likewiſe with great and ſudden revolutions in dreſs, as well as taſte: I have ſubmitted, in oppoſition to the clamours of a numerous party, to diſmantling the intrenchments of the hoop, on a tacit promiſe from my fair countrywomen (in compliance to the application of the young men) that they would leave the ſmall of the leg at leaſt as viſible as before. I have made no objection to their wearing the cardinal, though it be a habit of popiſh etymology, and was, I am afraid, firſt invented to hide the ſlutiſhneſs of French diſhabille. Nay, I have even connived at the importation of *rouge*, upon ſerious conviction that a fine woman has an inconteſtable right to be miſtreſs of her own complexion; neither do I know that we have any pretence to ſubject her to the neceſſity of telling us on the morrow, the late hours ſhe was under engagement to keep the night before; a grievance, which, through the extreme delicacy of her natural complexion, could no otherwiſe be remedied.

My abſolute compliance in ſo many important inſtances, will I hope ſecure me from any imputation of prejudice againſt the dominion of faſhion, which I am at laſt under the neceſſity of oppoſing, as it has introduced under it's ſanction, one of the moſt dangerous and impolitic cuſtoms that was ever admitted in a commonwealth, which is the unnatural and unconſtitutional practice of INOCULATION. The evil tendency of this practice I have ſuch unanſwerable arguments to evince, as I doubt not will baniſh it our iſland, and ſend it back to the confines of Circaſſia, from whence, one could hardly ſuſpect, a lady of quality would have been ſo wicked as to have imported it.

I MUST firſt premiſe, which is not greatly to it's credit, that it is of Turkiſh extraction; and (to ſpeak as a *man*) I profeſs I dread leſt it ſhould be a means of introducing, in theſe *opera days*, ſome more alarming practices of the ſeraglio.

IT ſeems likewiſe, by the by, to ſtrike at the belief of *abſolute predeſtination*; for (as a zealous calviniſt gravely remarked) is it not very preſumptuous for a young lady to attempt ſecuring not above twenty ſpots in her face, when perhaps it is *abſolutely decreed* ſhe ſhall have two hundred, or none at all?

BUT to my firſt argument. The world in general (for I pay no regard to what the author of the Perſian letters aſſerts to the contrary) is certainly much overpeopled; and the proofs of it, in this metropolis, we cannot but viſibly remark, in the conſtant labour of builders, maſons, &c. to fit up habitations for the increaſing ſupernumeraries. This inconvenience had hitherto been in a great meaſure prevented, by the proper number of people who were daily removed by the ſmall pox in the natural way; *one*, at leaſt, in *ſeven* dying, to the great eaſe, and convenience of the ſurvivors: whereas, ſince INOCULATION has prevailed, all hopes of thinning our people that way, are entirely at an end; not above *one* in *three hundred* being taken off, to the great incumbrance of ſociety. So that, unleſs we ſhould ſpeedily have a war upon the continent, we ſhall be in danger of being eaten up with famine at home, through the multiplicity of our people, whom we have taken this unnatural method of keeping alive.

MY ſecond argument was ſuggeſted to me by a very worthy country gentleman of my acquaintance, whom I met this morning taking ſome freſh air in the park. I accoſted

accoſted him with the free impertinence of a friend at the firſt interview, "What brought you to town, ſir?" "My wife, ſir (ſays he, in a very melancholy tone) "my wife. It had pleaſed her, the firſt four years of our "marriage, to live peaceably in the country, and to em-"ploy herſelf in ſetting out her table, viſiting her "neighbours, or attending her nurſery; and if ever a "wiſh broke out after the diverſions of the town, it was "eaſily ſoothed down again, by my ſaying with accents "of tenderneſs, my dear, we would certainly ſee London "this ſpring, but my laſt letters tell me, the ſmall pox "is very much there. But no ſooner had ſhe heard "the fatal ſucceſs of INOCULATION, than ſhe inſiſted "on the trial of it; has ſucceeded; and having baffled "my old valuable argument to keep her in the country, "has hurried me to town, and is now moſt induſtri-"ouſly making up her four years loſs of time at the "abbey, by entering with the moſt courageous ſpirit "into every party of pleaſure ſhe can poſſibly partake "of."

THE inference I would make from my friend's ſtory, is, not that the nation is deprived hereby of a convenient bugbear to confine ladies to the country; an abuſe, I would by no means countenance; but to ſhew only to our ſagacious politicians, who are ſearching for more important reaſons, that it is undoubtedly owing to the increaſe of INOCULATION, together with the number of convenient turnpikes, that ſo many of our worthy country gentlemen have evacuated their hoſpitable ſeats, and roll away with ſafety and tranquility to town, to the great diminution of country neighbourhood, and the inſufferable incumbrance of all public places in this metropolis.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER ill conſequence of this practice I have remarked more than once, in walking round the circle at Ranelagh. Beauties are naturally diſpoſed to be a little inſolent; and a conſciouſneſs of ſuperior charms, where the poſſeſſion is confirmed to the party, is very apt to break out into little triumphant airs and ſallies of haughtineſs towards thoſe of avowed inferiority in that reſpect. Hence that air of defiance, ſo viſible in the looks of our fineſt women, which in the laſt age was ſoftened and corrected with ſome ſmall traits of meekneſs and timidity: while the unhappy group of plain women, who bear about them thoſe honourable ſcars for which they ought to be revered, can ſcarcely meet with a beauty who will drop them a curt'ſy, or a beau who will lead them to their chariots.

NEITHER do I think it for the advantage of a commonwealth to be overſtocked with beauties. They are undoubtedly the moſt ſuitable furniture for public places, very proper objects to embelliſh an aſſembly room, and the prettieſt points of view in the park: but it is believed by ſome, that your plain women, whoſe underſtandings are not perverted by admiration, make the diſcreeteſt wives, and the beſt mothers: ſo that, to ſecure a conſtant ſupply of fit and ugly women to act in theſe neceſſary capacities, this modern invention for the preſervation of pretty faces, ought no doubt to be aboliſhed; ſince on a juſt computation, ten fine women *per annum* (which we can never want in England) will be ſufficient to entertain the *beau monde* for a whole ſeaſon, and compleatly furniſh all the public places every night, if properly diſpoſed.

I HAD ſome thoughts of laying theſe arguments againſt INOCULATION before the legiſlature, in hopes that